

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 00138 041622Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 OES-06 SP-02
SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 NEAE-00 /093 W
-----041629Z 068644 /65

O R 041428Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 0138

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG PFOR EG US IS
SUBJ: GULF OF SUEZ OIL EXPLORATION

REF: TEL AVIV 003

1. WESTERN BEACH, SEISMIC VESSEL MENTIONED PARA 2 REFTEL
IS AMERICAN FLAG VESSEL OWNED BY WESTERN ARABIAN GEOPHYSICAL
(AMERICAN COMPANY) AND HAS BEEN UNDER CONTRACT TO
MOBIL FOR SEISMIC WORK IN MOBIL'S AGREEMTN AREA
IN SOUTHWESTERN CORNER GULF OF SUEZ. ACCORDING MOBIL
EXPLORATION MANAGER AND WESTERN GEOPHYSICAL OFFICE IN
CAIRO, WESTERN BEACH HAS BEEN RUNNING SEISMIC SURVEYS
RELATED TO WELL SAFETY CHECKS BETWEEN AMOCO' WELL IN
BLOCK 382 AND MOBIL RIG WHICH CURRENTLY DRILLING NEAR
ASHRAF ISLAND. ACCORDING TO BOTH SOURCES, IN RUNNING THESE
LINES, VESSEL WAS INTERCEPTED "MANY TIMES" ON EACH DAY OF SEISMIC
PROGRAM WHICH RAN FROM DECEMBER 28 TO DECEMBER 31. WESTERN BEACH
CAPTAIN, WHO HAS BEEN WORKING IN GULF OF SUEZ FOR PAST
FOUR YEARS, OBEYED EACH ISRAELI ORDER TO MOVE WEST; THEN
WHEN PATROL BOAT HAD GONE, HE RETURNED UNTIL AGAIN
ORDERED TO LEAVE. SEISMIC PROGRAM COMPLETED DECEMBER 31.
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 00138 041622Z

2. ON JANUARY 2 WESTERN BEACH BEGAN WORK FOR COPE
(EGYPTIAN OPERATING COMPANY AT ABU RUDEIS AND BELAYIM
FIELDS). VESSEL LEFT SAFAGA FOR BELAYIM MORNING
JANUARY 4. WHILE WE WERE TALKING WITH WESTERN GEOPHYSICAL
MANAGER (ABOUT 1100Z JANUARY 4), GUPCO INFORMED HIM
THAT WESTERN BEACH, ON TRIP NORTH THROUGH RAMADAN FIELD,

HAD CROSSED MEDIAN LINE AND HAD BROUGHT ISRAELI PATROL BOATS RACING INTO RAMADAN FIELD. WESTERN GEOPHYSICAL MANAGER IMMEDIATELY ORDERED WESTERN BEACH TO PURSUE COURSE WELL WEST OF MEDIAN LINE AND CAPTAIN ACKNOWLEDGED HIS COMMAND.

3. COMMENT. BOTH MOBIL AND WESTERN GEOPHYSICAL DESCRIBED WESTERN BEACH'S PROBLEMS WITH ISRAELI GUNBOATS DURING LAST WEEK OF DECEMBER AS ROUTINE. WE REQUESTED EACH MANAGER, IN EFFORT PROTECT AMERICAN LIVES AND PROPERTY, TO INFORM US OF ANY SUCH OCCURANCES IN THE FUTURE. BOTH PROMISED THEY WOULD.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OFFSHORE OIL FIELDS, WESTERN BEACH M/V, SEISMIC PROSPECTING, EXPLORATORY DRILLING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAIRO00138
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770003-0326
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770183/aaaacukz.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e2cfe4dd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 TEL AVIV 3
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3669461
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GULF OF SUEZ OIL EXPLORATION
TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, EG, US, IS, WESTERN ARABIAN GEOPHYSICAL
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e2cfe4dd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009